71 55. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, wherein the implant is placed in a subject having myopia, and the implant has a curvature greater than the corneal curvature prior to introduction of the implant, to flatten a central curvature of the cornea.

72 54. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, wherein the implant is placed in a subject having hyperopia, and the implant has a curvature less than the corneal curvature prior to introduction of the implant, to steepen a central curvature of the cornea.

73 55. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, wherein introducing a stromal implant comprises inserting a plurality of implants into the cornea.

74 56. The method of claim ~~55~~ 73, wherein inserting the plurality of implants comprises radially inserting the plurality of the implants substantially symmetrically about the cornea.

75 57. The method of claim ~~58~~ 73, wherein inserting the plurality of the implants comprises radially inserting the plurality of radial implants asymmetrically about the cornea.

76 58. The method of claim ~~57~~ 75, wherein the plurality of radial implants are introduced asymmetrically into the cornea of a subject having astigmatism.

77 59. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, further comprising inserting a plurality of the implants radially in the cornea to achieve a desired refractive correction.

78 60. The method of claim ~~55~~ 73, further comprising selectively removing at least one of the implants after they have been introduced into the cornea.

79 61. The method of claim ~~51~~ 69, wherein the implant is elongated, and the method further comprises making a radial tunnel in the cornea below the corneal epithelium, through the initial incision, prior to introducing the implant into the cornea.

80 62. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, wherein the implant is substantially linear in shape.

81 63. The method of claim ~~50~~ 68, wherein the implant has a tapered leading end that facilitates introduction of the implant into the cornea, and the implant is introduced tapered end first into the cornea.

82 64. A method of altering a curvature of a cornea to correct a refractive error in a subject, comprising:

providing an elongated implant, wherein the implant has a pre-selected curvature or shape, along its longitudinal axis, designed to offset a refractive error in a subject;

making an initial incision in a periphery of limbus of the cornea;

inserting the implant into a stroma of the cornea through the initial incision, without entering a central optical zone or disrupting the epithelium at other than the initial incision, wherein a greatest width of the implant substantially conforms to the dimensions of the initial incision as the implant is introduced along its longitudinal axis radially into the cornea.

83 65. The method of claim ~~51~~ 69, further comprising injecting the implant into the corneal stroma.